Jany 23 } **Friday.** Morn fair, wind NW. and a fair day.

One of the Irish labourers on the rail perished yesterday overcome with cold. This is a rare case with a healthy man. Generally active exercise keeps up the heat of the body, even in the coldest air. If however the vital functions become exhausted through fatigue, there is danger. Perhaps the best preservative in such cases, is a due supply of wholesome food taken in small quantities at short intervals.

24 **Saturday.** Morn fair; wind NW. and day clear

25 **Sunday.** Morn fair, wind W.; the day continued fair

Mr Moores, our candidate for the pulpit, returned to this town yesterday to prepare for ordination on next Wednesday.

26. **Monday.** Cloudy morn with snow and NW. wind; the day continued cloudy, but little snow fell

27. **Tuesday.** Fair morn, wind N.E. Day continued fair

The steam Ship Hibernia arrived at Boston last friday from Liverpool, which place she left on the 4th instant. Probably she brought out instructions to the British minister at Washington. From the extracts from the English papers it appears that a pacific spirit pervades the people, and that war is not sought for by them. If an opposite spirit is kept up here, it will be by our war hawks who regard not the welfare of our country. The claim we have set up to 54. 40 N. Lat, nearly 400 miles north of our boundary east of the rocky mountains, is preposterous. We have never been able to ascertain on what right it is founded. The territory was ceded by Spain to Bonaparte, & by him to us, during Jeffersons administration, and without a defined boundary on the north.

4. Jany 27. Our title then rests on that of Spain, which is derived from the vague claims called the *right of discovery*: Or in other words, a Ship ranging along an unknown coast, confers a title though inhabited by natives for time immemorial. But that discovery confers a right to any latitude in the interior, as far as on the coast, is idle in the extreme. If the country is wholly uninhabited by human beings, the first *occupant* has the best title, and is not to be disturbed by any afterwards; but in this case the title is confined to the part actually occupied. And whether we or Great Britain can show the best title is a question hardly worth a decision by gun powder and bayonets. If the two nations consult their interests an adjustment of their claims may be made, and peace preserved. Mr Polk it is believed would submit to an amicable adjustment of the dispute were he permitted by his wild constituents; but they tell him to hold on for the "*whole country*. *or none*" and will he risk his popularity by disappointing them? This I believe is the *turning point*; and a President who makes this popularity his pole star, can never act independently. Hence we shall always be liable to conflicts with neighboring nations.

28 *Wednesday*. Morn with broken clouds & SW wind, & day the same
[illegible] & [illegible]

This day Mr John F. Moores ordained over the Unitarian Congregation in this town. He is from Groton in this state, educated at Cambridge University, and studied theology in the divinity school at that place; of course has no predilections for the repulsive dogmas of Calvinism. A Council of Clergymen was present, and they went through the usual forms & ceremonies. Sermon delivered by Rev. J. F. Clark of Boston.

Under the old orthodox practice it

Jany 28 it was common for the the council to examine the candidate & test the soundness of his faith, and when found dissenting from the five points of Calvin & the doctrine of the trinity, he was rejected as *non fit*. At this time the candidate is admitted, if he be found to possess the literary and scientific requisites, leaving the congregation to judge of his theology. This practice, however, I think may be too loose. Such an examination should be had as may insure the council that the candidate has not imbibed the errors of Calvin, which are now dissipating before the light of fair investigation. Besides if the congregation is to be the sole judges of the theology of the candidate, an *atheist*, if he possesses the literary qualifications, may be ordained by a council professing christianity. If a council is called it seems proper that they should have power to reject the candidate when they find him defective in what they suppose *essentials*. A council without this power would be an absurdity.

A different mode of ordination has recently been introduced. A parish or congregation having ~~having~~ engaged their pulpit instructor, reiterate their agreement which is assented to by the candidate, and he is inducted into office without the advice of a council. In a country where there is no established religion in the constitution or laws, this may be an eligible mode, provided the contract is *Bona Fide* and legal. But in general a clergyman who is settled in a parish, is desirous of a circle of associates around him, with whom he may occasionally exchange his pulpit services.

On the importance of sunday lectures from the parish pulpit, with a few forms and ceremonies, most men of of discriminating minds are agreed; but it is to be regretted that many of these lectures are addressed to the passions more than to the reason of the audience

6. tending rather to the promotion
Jany of enthusiasm than of moral reforma
28. ation and elevated reverence of
the Deity. A sublime religion is
not suited to all, but that which
enforces no moral obligations,
is of little worth.

29 Thursday Rain morn, & wind N.E.
and most of the day proved cloudy.
Our ordination yesterday, was, as
I am informed, numerously attended
and the several parts performed
with ability. The unitarian sys
tem is now opposed with less vio
lence than formerly, and the peo
ple begin to learn that it is not counter
to the laws of nature, nor the
uncultivated reason of man. The
doctrines of hereditary depravity and
the trinity, are giving way to a more
consistent belief. In a country where
free enquiry is allowed a rigid ad
herence to the old orthodox system would
have created strong objections to its
divine origin in the minds of well
informed men. Before it is uni
versally embraced it must be purg
ed of its corruptions.

30 Friday. The morn cloudy, and wind
S.W. and air moderate. Sun out a
short time, but the day mostly cloudy.
The probability of a war with
The anticipated War } Great Britain to settle the undefined
boundary of the Oregon territory, occa
sions some conversation among the
people, particularly ~~of~~ in the young
~~people~~ of the democratic class, who
are charmed with the puerile show
of our militia parades; and they
seem to think that not only our
defence, but the entire conquest of the
British provinces in America, would
be an easy undertaking and in
deed a pleasant sport. Relying
on numbers, and what they call
a Spirit of Liberty among the mi
litia, they suppose them equal to
any task; and that the disciplined
troops of Europe would give way
before their liberty boys and
dissipate like the fog in a bright sun.
When I describe to them the art of
war as now practiced by the scien
tific nations of Europe, they stare

Jun 30 and seem to think me deal-
ing with fables; and when
I represent our unpreparedness
for war, upon an extended
scale, they think me aiming
at deception.

In this country we see and hear
much of militia parades and show
of baubles; but when I say that
no civilized nation on earth is
so profoundly ignorant of the *real*
art of *war*, as the majority of the peo-
ple of this confederation, I assert a truth.
That there is a spirit that would
induce some of our volunteer corps to take
the field on the first call under officers
of their own choice, is admitted, but after
one or two months service it would
require double the number of regular
troops to keep them in the field:
The endearing ties of home and con-
nections become overpowering, and
they soon find that the military field
is not a scene for militia sport.
The idea that now prevails of carry-
ing on a war with detachments of
militia, is idle in the extreme; and
if any thing will cure the delusion
such a war would do it effectually.
If we have war with a power-
ful nation, we must provide a
standing army of enlisted troops, and
officers *appointed* for the service,
who will not be subject to the
dictation of their men, but high
minded gentlemen who will risk
life in the battle field, rather than
their military reputation for bravery.

Men of this description may possess
no more *natural courage* than the
militia officer, but they have more
military pride, which induces them
to stand, when the militiaman
would retreat at the risk of a rep-
utation not fixed as a point of
honor. On the subject of militia see the letters
of Gen Washington & others written dur-
ing the war of our revolution. In
one of the former he says—"*I solemnly*
declare I never was witness to a
single instance that can countenance
an opinion of militia or raw troops
being fit for the real business of
fighting". This solemn declaration
was made after witnessing the
service of militia in the war of 1755
& most of that of the Revolution!

8 .. But at this day we find men
Jany. who have danced on a peaceful
30 parade to a band of music, and others who have witnessed the play repudiating the solemn declaration of the renowned Washington, and the old error of carrying on a war by detachments of citizens seems to be gaining advocates - a scheme says the General in the same letter, that has almost amused America out of our liberties.

To account for this we have only to recollect that a race of young men has arisen, since the close of the last war, who have neither theory nor experience sufficient to enable them to judge of the operations of an army and who would be as awkwardly placed on a field of battle, as in exhibiting feats of dexterity in a circus without previous practice. A protracted war would cure this error, and show us that men may be good citizens, and at the same time no soldiers. The truth is, before men can become such, they must be remodelled, worked up into a sort of machines composed of new springs & powers, working in unison at the command of their officers. When men are brought to this condition, the commander in chief will be able to calculate with precision, the strength of his force, and know when to advance on his enemy and when to retreat; and here we see the difference between regular troops & militia: and what prudent commander is willing to risk his reputation in conducting an army composed of the latter.

31 - Saturday. Morn cloudy; wind N. Eastwardly & the latter part of yesterday; some rain fell, but the usual January thaw has not occurred: the day continued cloudy, with some snow.

Yesterday died Mr. Ebenezer Hoyt, at the farm house on Great Island, aged 73, of a pulmonary disease. He was the oldest son of my late half brother Jonathan Hoyt and has left a wife & several sons & a daughter - all of mature age. A few years of his life he spent in Lower Canada with the late Samuel Gale.

February 1. **Sunday.** Morn cloudy, wind N. E.; & the day was cloudy throughout.

Mr Moors, an ordained clergyman, delivered his introductory Sermons, in which he pointed out the duties of a minister and his associates, & gave the outlines of the course he should endeavor to pursue. He did not consider himself infallible, but should endeavor to preach truth; but of this his hearers were to judge, and not to assent to positions they might deem unreasonable, because they were advanced by him. His designs are liberal, and promise the promotion of rational religion

2. **Monday.** Cloudy morn - and wind W; the day the same

In a speech in the U States Senate Gen. Cass says that "nothing has been received by the government, by the last packet, which would at all warrant us in suspending, or postponing our measures of defence. The subject in controversy remains precisely as it was. The question was, and is, whether we shall surrender to the British demands, or whether the British Government shall surrender to ours. If no such cession is made by either party, the two countries will be brought into conflict." - Still say the party who elected Mr Polk, not a foot of the tract in contest below 54° 40' shall be surrendered. Is there then no probability of a war? Those who think not, are little aware of the indiscreetness of the democratic majority in the U States, who look not to consequences, but suppose they are acting liberty by blindly following their leaders, who would destroy all the governments in the world except their own, and ultimately sink this to anarchy and unbridled licentiousness for the gratification of their wild propensities. Such are the exig. with which the real friends of liberty are to contend

Feby 2. May not the wild strides we are making, at length produce a coalition of the nations of Europe for their own safety, and to put down a power which is becoming a disturber of the peace of the world, under the false pretension of diffusing liberty

3. __Tuesday.__ Cloudy morn, wind S.W.; the day continued much the same.

__Our General Court.__ On looking over its proceedings I notice many new projects for the Government of the state, some of which involve alterations in the Constitution. That it is susceptible of improvement is admitted, but any attempts at alterations, __at this time__, would be unwise. A more calm state of the public mind is necessary before any important alterations are attempted. Were we to attempt an entire new constitution in the present condition of the country it would partake of principles as wild as those now embraced by a large portion of our people, and be as unstable as the wind: nor would democracy rest easy under any form which lays restrictions on vice or immorality. Men are not naturally vicious, but they become so through the influence of those who have no fixed principles of right. Hence the disturbances we witness in our political course.

As respects a session of the General Court, that which enacts the fewest laws best discharges its duty to the State. Already our statutes are numerous & still without ~~without~~ the application of the __common law__, they would be deficient in many cases. Perhaps we may then trust as safely to common law as to statutes which must always be imperfect from the imperfection of language. But it is said this would be intrusting too much power in the courts, and then it would leave there no fixed principles in our constitutions & the code of morality. [illegible]

July Yet multiply statute laws
3. to any extent, still the common law must be applied in many cases. Hence we see that both the lex non scripta and the lex scripta are necessary for courts; and fortunate are the people when they have on their seats of justice, honest, honorable, & discriminating men who dare perform their duty aright. Much might be said on this subject and yet some uncertainty remain in respect to the extent of common law.

4 Wednesday. Fair morn, N. wind, and very fair day.

Merriam & Mirick, of Greenfield, have for sale History of the Last War between the United States & Great Britain. by Chas. J. Ingersoll. A good history of that war is wanting, and as yet I have never perused one that answered my expectations. A full detail of its operations would show us the folly of engaging in contest without previous preparations; and if the causes of this were truly given, it would be found that it might have been honorably avoided, and under wise leaders would not have occurred. It is true that our little navy as well & some of our land forces, fought bravely, but little was gained by the war. One of the ostensible causes was the right of searching our vessels for British subjects, but this was abandoned at the conclusion of the contest, by the treaty of Ghent.

In general History

Military histories written by men unacquainted with the art of war, are generally defective in the details, and unsatisfactory to military men. To describe a battle correctly, requires an exact knowledge of the topography of the ground and the discipline of the troops engaged, with all the circumstances connected with it. That two armies met, fought, and killed and wounded so many on each side, & one beat the other, may suffice for common readers But the military man looks further He requires such details as will enable him to judge of the skill of the commanders

Battles not always well described

Requisites for

Feby 4. the faults committed, and the instances of judicious movements together with all the circumstances which cause the victory or defeat: Hence the importance of engraved plans of the actions, as well as a knowledge of the ground. Among the Historians of the revolutionary war, I think Marshall gives the best descriptions of battles given without plans, he often brings to view the nature of the ground, the position of the opposing armies, and all the important movements, required by the military reader. Marshalls History

On the subject of military history, the following remarks of an English Reviewer, [illegible] apposite.

"There is (says he) an idea very prevalent amongst, we believe, critics and authors, as well as amongst the people in general, that the pride, pomp and circumstances of glorious war, are so calculated to excite curiosity and to rouse our passions, that an author but of ordinary talents is pretty sure of attracting attention, and of acquiring fame if his theme be the adventures of well fought fields with all the vicissitudes of hope, fear, disaster and success. For our parts, we are of opinion that the Bella,- the horrida Bella, are subjects which require no common degree of skill & judgment to render attractive in the pages of a book."

Mr Gibbon, when young, enterd the militia service in England, and endeavored to acquire a knowledge both of the art of war, and of British tactics, and he acknowledges, "that the Captain of the Hampshire militia has not been useless to the historian of the Roman Empire". In fact some of the operations of armies are so intricate & various, as not to be well described by one unacquainted with the art of war: the operations of a systematic siege are of this character. Whether Mr Ingersoll possesses the requisite talents for his history is unknown to us. If so, in-

July his studies must have
been very different from
4. those of most of our civil men.
We shall give the work a
thorough perusal when ob
tained. To be comprised in 3 vol 8vo

15 Thursday. Warm, fair [illegible]
wind SW. Some thawing of the
snow, but sleighing still pretty
good, and much improved.
During a fair day, five minutes
seldom elapse without seeing a sleigh
stage, sled or other vehicle passing
along our street. But, since the
general introduction of iron stoves
the quantity of wood brought
Of into the village is much lessened.
Fuel It is now principally cut in the
summer season, from 3 to 4 feet in length
piled in the woods, and conveyed
home in the fall or fore part
of winter; but it frequently arrives
in a soggy state and requires
drying, and after cold weather
commences is frozen & burns as
slowly as green wood. Fuel should
be thoroughly dried & placed in the
wood-house before it is exposed
to the snow. If brought home
in a green state, it should be ex-
posed to the summer sun five or
six weeks after chopping & splitting and packed in dry fair
weather. Economy of fuel de
pends much on its proper
management, and I believe dry
wood is less expensive than green.
Moist or soggy wood placed
upon a fire, will not burn un
til the aqueous matter is evapo
rated, and this evaporation
carries the heat of the stove
up the chimney, and very little
is imparted to the rooms.

While remarking upon the econ
omy of fuel, I am led to notice a
Of defect in our cookery. I allude to
food. the neglect of preparing Pot-Soups
for families. A common size
pot of Soup, duly prepared,
will furnish an ordinary family
with the requisite animal food
for a week. A small hock of
beef, or the refuse bones of
a beef roasting piece, chopped
into small pieces, boiled slowly
with ordinary vegetables, such as
potatoes, onions, beets, carrots turnips
tomatoes & cabbage, all sliced to thin
pieces

14 and duly salted & peppered, will
2.17. furnish a dish of wholesome and
5 palatable food: a small quant-
ty of pork may be added, and
also a portion of rice. The pot
Soups should be nearly filled with the
well liquid when finished. If the mu-
km cilage is sufficient, the soup
of. will ~~form gelatine~~ when cold, and
may be eaten in that state, or
warmed to suit the taste. To give
it a further relish, a small
quantity of clams may be added;
and for those fond of acids
vinegar will be necessary.
Soups prepared from the
bones of ~~mutton~~, veal, the feet
ears, snouts and other offals
of swine, will answer, but those
substances which contain the
the most gelatine, are pre-
ferable.

The wholesomeness and econo-
my of soup diet, seem not to be
duly appreciated by our people,
as I believe, from want of due
consideration and neglecting
to prepare them. They are the
cheapest and most salutary food
than can be devised; the meat
but costing ~~costing~~ not more
than 1/5 of a dollar per week.
With a supply of Indian corn meal
~~for~~ various sorts of puddings, and
a small quantity of milk ~~and~~ soup
diet, a needy family, will
hardly find itself deprived of the
comforts of life; and even those
in middling circumstances will
crave little more.

To the affluent whose tastes have
become vitiated by indulgence in
the refined arts of cookery. we
present no rules. They may in-
dulge their appetites at the ex-
pense of health; but let them re-
flect that their artificial tastes
& wants will find but a few years
for indulgence.

6 Friday: Fair morn and day, with
NW. wind

For several days past we have
nothing of importance from Con-
gress: there are partly talk of
increasing our means of defence
by an increase of the navy; but
when they look at the expense
they

July their zeal seems to
6 abate and no measures are taken to increase the land forces. Indeed we are in a fine situation for war! But our militia are to reap the laurels! What infatuation! Is the Bladensburg affair & the sacking of the city of Washington be forgotten, or a race of men come upon the stage who laying aside their implements of agriculture are ready to cross bayonets with war worn veterans! Idle presumption! Thirty years have not changed the character of our men, always brave enough for soldiers, but ignorant of their duties.

Young men, under the impulse of patriotism, no doubt are ready to take the field at a call, and as ready to quit it when they perceive death and the horrors of battle approaching. Led by spirited officers in small bodies, they may be brought into action, but their ardor soon cools; they misgive & fall into confusion, from which it is impossible to rally them. And why should men who love life and the endearments of home conduct otherwise.?

But place them in the ranks of a regular battalion, and inure them to the service under chivalrous officers who will risk life rather than reputation, and they will stand their ground, because they dare not retreat. Here then we may comprehend the sum and substance of what is called military bravery, which is but little understood by the people at large.

7 Saturday. Cloudy morn, wind W., & cloudy day.

Accounts from Washington express a belief that the English minister has received instructions from his Government to renew the negotiation on the Oregon question

Feby 7 question. If this be a fact and Mr Polk were at liberty to decide for himself, we believe an adjustment might be completed in a very short time. But his democratic friends allow him no choice in the case. They say the _whole_ of _Oregon_, _or_ _war_; but what this _whole_ is no one can define. But since the interests and welfare of the two nations is so intimately connected, we think war will not occur. Our brethren of the _west_ who have sharpened their tomahawks and oiled their rifles for the contest, may be disappointed; but they may find other employment more profitable, and at length thank the wise statesmen of the _east_ for warding off the calamity, into which they would have recklessly plunged themselves for the purpose of wreaking their foolish vengeance on Great Britain, because she claims what she supposes is her right.

8 _Sunday_. Fair morning, wind NW. and very clear day

Wonderful Boy of Vermont

In the _Boston Courier_ of the 4th instant we see an account of a wonderful Boy of 10 years, by Henry W. Adams, an agent of the Bible society at Concord NH. published in the _Zion's Herald_. His name is _Truman Henry Safford_, born at Royalston on the 5th of January 1836; and his performances completely equal those of the renowned _Zerah Colburn_ of the same State. To preserve the account, I have cut it from the Courier and pasted it on the first page of this Book. Mr Adams's account seems incredible, and, at any rate, requires the most indubitable evidence to produce assent on the part of the reader. But admitting the facts stated by Mr Adams, what are we to conclude in relation to the human mind? Is it true that some of the human race are born with faculties, which enable them to perceive mathematical truths, as the generality of men perceive what are called _axioms_, or self evident truths?

Sure

Feby 8 True we are informed that men have been known, who on a glance of the eye upon the demonstrations of Euclid, perceived them to be true on a moment's inspection, as if by intuition; but these were not ten year old boys; they undoubtedly went through the same process of deduction as other mathematicians, but with more rapidity.

Mr Adams thinks the lad's knowledge is not intuitive, for he reasoned and sometimes explained his processes; but the wonder is by what means he selected his processes. His extractions of the cube root, of large numbers were performed in his head, almost instantaneously, and he solved some of the most intricate problems in the same manner. In short, of such a mind we can form no conceptions of its powers and operations, but by supposing it of a higher order than is found in men of common intellects.

Indeed we see among men, a gradation of intellect from the idiot to the deepest philosopher. How far short of the great minds of Newton, La Place, and many mathematicians who might be named, are those of mankind in general. Even in the minds of the lower animals (which we are compelled to grant them), we have strong reason to believe them possessed of very different powers of discernment even in the same species. In general men arrive at mathematical truth by slow process of deduction, from a few self evident propositions. The demonstration of the proposition, that the square of the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle is equal to those of its legs, is not readily seen by one not conversant with geometry. But may not there be higher grades of intellect which perceive at a glance the truth of such propositions as readily as we do the truth of axioms. This seems to be the only way by which the extraordinary performances of young Safford can be accounted for. Mr Adams' account of him, as I have remarked, appear incredible, but it would be difficult to explain his notions of human

18 to deceive the public by false rep-
Feby resentations; we shall therefore ac-
8 cept them as facts, still with the
belief that he may, in some instances
have been himself deceived.

9 *Monday.* Fair morn, wind W.
and the day continued fine, but
sometimes the sun covered with broken
clouds. — Air rather cool.
Nothing new from our Legislative
bodies this day; the last debates in
Congress upon the Oregon question in-
dicate a cooling of the war spirit,
but the *western tomahawk* is still
brandished. yet it is hoped it will
soon be laid aside for the implements
of agriculture, the only weapons for
their prosperity and happiness.
Let them then, erect their houses
and barns, fence or ditch their prai-
ries, turn up the soil and plant
the proper seeds, and by the
blessings of Providence, they will
reap abundant crops for them-
selves and families. A spirit
of war under their condition is
insanity of the most fatal kind,
and would be avoided were the
people better informed

10. *Tuesday.* Morn fair, wind SW.
air cold, and very clear day.
The suns declination is now
about 14°.22' S. and the length of day
$10^{h}.21^{m}$, consequently of the night
$13^{h}.39^{m}$.
With what wonderful exactness
the earth moves in its orbit and at the
same time turning on its axis from year
Earth's to year; giving us seasons and days!
motion We say the orbital motion is
regu- caused by the combined action of
larity gravity & projection. But are these
of powers inherent and distinct from
the energy of the Creator? or once
given to the earth, do they require
new energy to continue the motion?
The answer is not without diffi-
culty; but in either case design
is evident, and proves the wis-
dom and power of its author;
and when we take a glance at
Reflec- the universe at large, imperfect as
tion the view is, we see the same wis-
dom & power in constant opera-
tion, and are irresistably led to
the knowledge of the existence of a Great
& Wise being, of whose attributes
we can form no adequate concep-
tions; and we *wonder* and *adore*

Feby "Yet not to earth's contracted span
10. Thy goodness let me bound,
Or think the Lord alone of man,
When thousand worlds are round.
To thee, whose temple is all space,
Whose altar, earth, sea, & skies,
One chorus let all being raise!
All nature's incense rise!"

11 Wednesday. Morn cloudy, wind N. and some snow falling; day continues cloudy.

Edward Everett is elected President of Harvard University by a unanimous vote. (64) No man it is believed in the state, is better prepared for the office than Mr Everett; and I am gratified to find that Jacobin democracy has been disappointed in its attempts to change the order of the College by working upon the prejudices of orthodoxy. Had their base plan succeeded, not only science and literature, but rational religion would have received a deep wound. Let but the old rigid system of orthodoxy be restored and Christianity would make but a sorry progress among thinking men. Until the College placed Christianity upon philosophical grounds, the system were incapable of defence. Even Yale finds it necessary to prune off some of its excrescences; but that institution retains too many for its credit and respectability. Its science is however valuable, but its theology darkens the minds of its pupils, and renders them fit instruments for imposing upon simple minds.

Where the system of Calvin finds advocates, and is made the basis of Christianity, the people, if not well informed, may be held in a fog; but in a country where men are free to examine for themselves, the fog will be dissipated. The time has come in which the evil propensities and crimes of men should not be charged upon the Deity; or, which is the same, imputed to the disobedience of their progenitor six thousand years before they were born. Into what absurdities may not the misinformed be led by a bigoted clergy!

In the middle states where Presbyterianism prevails, and [illegible] ranks of New England among the [illegible]

Feby 11 The election system of Calvin has its advocates, but they are a little cautious of treating much upon its tenets in their pulpits; and then they veil them from their hearers. But as an enlightened preacher has remarked, the scheme "*cannot, and will not be received by the people*." Either a rational system must be adopted, or rational men will reject the whole. The fanatical zeal of Orthodoxy is giving way to more enlightened views, and in this country of free investigation the truth of mankind will break from the shackles with which a fanatical clergy have so long bound them. Instances may be found where schemes equally absurd may be adopted; but these will be limited to places where general knowledge is at a low ebb. In our new settlements *Mormonism*, or other schemes equally foolish may be found, but they will disappear as real knowledge prevails. Let then the light of *real education* be diffused and men will no longer remain in the fog, which obfuscates the divine attributes of the Creator.

12 *Thursday*. Fair morn. wind N and clear day & cool air.

News from Washington

By accounts from Washington, it appears that there had been some further correspondence between our government and that of Great Britain, on the Oregon question, and ~~the~~ opinion is, that the difficulty will be adjusted by agreeing on the 49th degree of latitude, with some concessions favorable to the British in regard to harbors. This is favorable; but will Mr Polk's *tomahawkins* consent to such an adjustment! Mr Polk must keep his eye on his popularity, since he is the *people's man*. Should this dispute be adjusted, Congress will be at liberty to act on innovations which have been promised; the *tariff* will probably be one of the first, since democracy has pounced, boldly, upon it as a popular measure. But who believes that

Feby 12 that alterations of duties on certain articles will be an amendment? Introduce as many alterations as whims may suggest, still the tariff will be imperfect. Why then this barking at a wind-mill? The answer is ready: it is a popular subject and squints at the ballot-box, with the shivering effect.

But let us hope that this spirit of innovation will cease with that of war, and the people turn their attention to the arts of peace on which their prosperity and respectability rests.

When the vast territory of the union shall become peopled and brought under cultivation and the ameliorating arts, sciences and morals, shall be diffused throughout, we may become the most powerful nation on earth, to whom the other nations will look for protection

But if we, like the Roman Empire, embrace a spirit of usurpation and conquest, we shall like them fall from our greatness and may find the other nations of Europe combined to defend themselves against our injustice and rapacity. Peace then is our only safe course and let us be wise enough to preserve it.

We are however in danger of divisions of our territory from its extent; and how far a nation under one political body may extend; is a question of importance. Taking history for a guide we find that extended empires have fallen. An extensive nation of ordinary population is vulnerable at all points when assaulted by one possessing a superior navy. While one point is attacked & troops collected for defence another may be assaulted, and thus a floating force of 8 or 10 thousand men, may keep an extended sea coast in constant alarm, and 100,000 men would be required to insure safety at all points.

Hence we see that the United States are weak & feeble as a military nation. Its aggregate population has created a false impression of its strength

With a navy decidedly superior
Feby to that of Great Britain the case
12 would be reversed, but still our
sparse population renders us
weak in our land defence.

13 Friday. Morn fair, wind NW.
and a fair day, with cold air.
Good sleighing continues and
temperature brisk

14 Saturday. Morn fair, wind N.
Rest proved generally cloudy & cold.

We learn, in the papers, the
Brit correspondence between Secretary
ish Buchanan and the British min
corres ister at Washington, communi
pond cated to the House of Representa
ence tives by the President, Feby 7th,
from which it appears Mr
Pakenham proposes that the
Oregon dispute may be sub-
Arbi mitted to a fair arbitration, but
tration has been refused, under the most idle
offered pretences by the President.
& re In this refusal Mr. Polk has
fused acted precisely as I anticipated
in the case the proposition
should be made. He does not
effects forget the demands of the war
of. hawks who placed him in
the white house. It remains the
task of the democratic editors
to reconcile his pretended desire
of peace, with his conduct.
The refusal of the proposition
will open the eyes of honest
men to his real designs, and
turn the public mind in Europe
to the plans of the present
dominant party here. The ob-
jections of Mr. Buchanan against
the proposition, are idle and
even puerile, and will sink
him to a low level in the minds
of the friends of the Country.
No fairer mode of settling the
dispute could have been devised;
and if our infatuated democra-
cy is determined to plunge us
into a war, under this condition,
they must abide the consequences.
The Latin proverb, "Quem
Deus vult perdere, prius de-
mentat", offers an appropri-
ate comment:
In the House of Representatives
the resolution for committing

Feby 14. the treaty of 1827, for the joint occupancy of Oregon, has passed by a vote of 163 to 54, with the name of John Q. Adams at the head of the majority. In the Senate it is thought it will meet with sound opposition, and perhaps be defeated.

But afterall, perhaps the present mania for war will not be cured until its distresses and miseries are felt. A new race, burning with "military glory", have come upon the stage, who from their ignorance of war, think it a pastime. A few months of service in the field however will show it to be a tragedy, and then they will be very ready to quit the stage for more peaceful employments; and that the Belles, ~~the~~ horrida Bella have no further charms for them. This is the common effect on militiamen, so confidently relied on by our wild patriots, who shout war at home, but carefully remain at a safe distance from the bloody field.

In refusing the proposition of Mr Pakenham to settle the ~~Oregon~~ dispute by arbitration; if Mr Polk is honest, his foresight is extremely limited and his judgment evidently imbecile, and his friends may find it difficult to raise him to a rank above that reputed he sustained in his obscurity, prior to his election to the station he now holds. Much pains have been taken by democratic editors to elevate him to the rank of a wise Statesman, but nothing has yet appeared to give him the desired elevation; and an unjust war may sink him below his former level. The reasons assigned for refusing an arbitration indicate a weakness of mind far greater than his opponents had anticipated.

Mr Polk}

In his party appointments and exclusive course, no proofs are exhibited of an elevated mind, which sees & respects worth, even in a political opponent.

24 Feby 14

In his social intercourse with his friends, Mr Polk is said to display the easy manners of the gentleman, but let it be remembered that these qualities, though agreeable, are not necessarily connected with eminent talents. But granting him this, it is singular that he has not been more extensively known with in the United States.

His former obscurity

When Mr Polk was nominated by the democratic Convention at Baltimore, his name was as unknown to the people at large as if he were an inhabitant of Laputa; and by what means the convention ascertained that he was this man, is to us unknown. It appears however that they have not mistaken him. On his election to the Presidency, the friends of the Republic resolved to watch his course, and to give support to his measures, so far as they were wise & constitutional; but they scarcely anticipated so gross a step as that now taken in the dispute with Great Britain on the Oregon boundary.

By the refusal of Mr Packenhams proposition the government of Great Britain has obtained the "vantage ground", and this will be seen throughout civilized Europe.

Unfortunately for the United States her flag ship is now under a pilot of doubtful skill, who may run her up on the rocks. We are now in want of a pilot of known skill; one in whom the wise statesmen of the country could place confidence. Should a war arise with Great Britain, we shall need the wisdom and council of our eminent men for our defence; and how far they will act with zeal in a war waged under the present circumstances is a question of importance. They may find it necessary to ward off the danger into which they have been unwarily plunged by the stupidity of our government; but let it be recollected that the people at large will not

Jan'y 14 long sustain a war unless especially waged; but when they feel its distresses & privations, its taxes, and enormous cost, & loss of trade & commerce, they will resort to the ballot boxes for redress; and let the present incumbents of office look to their fate.

But we are told by visionary orators and clamorous demagogues that a war with Great Britain would sweep her from North America,—that 200.000 men may be sent to Canada to clear that section from British usurpers, & to introduce our principles of liberty: But who are these men so readily put on the march? They are the farmers, mechanics, traders &c who find employment at home in time of peace, and supplies for themselves and families by their industry. Do these noisy demagogues forget that these invaders require food, clothing, arms, ammunition and pay from the Government, besides supplies for their families left at home; and do these vociferous gentlemen suppose that our farmers and mechanics who are dexterous in wielding the implements of their professions, or our militia corps who drill so prettily on a smooth parade at the time of a general muster, are soldiers? Stupid pretension! A slight examination of the art of war as now practised by the scientific nations of Europe, would teach them the fallacy of their whims, and that numerical force is of secondary consideration in military operations. I think I hazard nothing in saying that an army of 50 thousand disciplined men furnished with ample subsistence and munitions of war, cannot be beaten by all the militia that can be brought against it: nor can a militia of large numerical force be commanded by any General however skillful he may be: Nor, as Gen. Washington has said, would any commander risk his reputation at the head of an undisciplined army, against one composed of regular troops. And

bay

26 body of militia in the woods,
July or posted in fortified works, may
14 perform useful service; but in
the open field they will not
stand a moment against an equal
numerical force of of well disciplined
troops:
Are we then ready for a con
test with Great Britain? Let the
experienced military officer de-
cide.

15. Sunday: Morn cloudy, with
a snow storm and N. wind
Of a (or N. by E). Storm continued
millen through the day and a con
ial siderable depth of snow fell,
state say 8 inches or more. Some say 12
Some of our millinarians, have
flattered themselves that disputes
between nations were about to
be settled without a resort to
arms, and that wars would
be unknown in future. But if we judge
from the present war spirit
now found in the United States,
and from the conduct of its govern
ment in refusing to submit
the dispute between us and Great
Britain, to an arbitration, we
have little reason to look for that
glorious time ~~[illegible]~~ for
years to come. Wars in Eu
Wars rope, it is true, are less fre
less fre quent than formerly, which
quent may be attributed to the terri
in Europe ble conflict sustained during
the French revolution in which
a vast number of the human
race were destroyed in the mili
tary operations under the
conduct of the madman, Napo
leon Bonaparte. This terrible
flood of iniquity seems to have allayed
Cause of the war spirit, in a degree, in
of w. Europe. But we, a young nation
signed knowing little of the distresses
of war, are cherishing a hos
tile spirit, and our young
men seem to think that a glo
rious opportunity is approach
ing, in which they can acquire
glorious fame. A more pernicious di
athesis cannot be cherished.
But the idea of "glorious war"
is not to be eradicated by reason
ing, and perhaps nothing short
of a severe contest will cure the evil
spirits

Feby Young men are often seen,
15. who read the accounts of
battles in which 20 to 30 thousand
human beings were prostrated
False in the contested field, with cal
notions lous indifference, or one hu-
of mil- mane reflection;— and if one
itary of Bonaparte's battles, the greater
glory. number of men killed, the
greater the pleasure of the
perusal. A battle in which
a thousand or fifteen hundred
were killed, scarcely attracts
Charac- their attention. Details of
of Bo- the great battles of Bonaparte create a sort
naparte of adoration towards the offi-
battles cers who conducted them, &
they are deemed the greatest men in
the world! These false no-
tions should find no place
in the minds of youth.
The battles of Bonaparte were
scenes of butchery from which
the humane man recoils with
shuddering pity. His great battle
Fal- with the Russians at Borodi-
lacy no, and his subsequent ignominious retreat
of mil- from Moscow, exhibit military
itary glory in no enviable point
glory of view. His final de-
feat at Waterloo totally eclipsed his fame
and St. Helena ended the bubble.
In perusing accounts of these
battles we should recollect
the objects intended to be gained
by them, and in this light
it will be seen, that nothing
but ambition and a person
al aggrandisement were the
objects of Bonaparte— but poor incentives
to military glory. If any are
entitled to the epithet, it is those
who have acted in a defen
sive war against ambition
injustice & rapacity,— rare in
centuries to come at this stage
of civilization; and it is to
be hoped that men like Bona
parte are the last that may
inflict misery on the world.
Millen With regard to a millenium,
ni if we have evidence ~~[illegible]~~ that
um such, a period is to occur,
we think there is little indication
of its approach at this time.

28

Feb 7

15

Progress of Arts & Sciences

Of Government

Errors entertained

Consequences

True it is, the arts and sciences have been advanced, and by their aid men are capable of deep penetration into the laws of nature, and of coming at wonderful results; but here they stop, and all beyond is conjecture. The science of Government has also been improved, and the natural rights of man are better regarded. But unfortunately it happens, that as the spirit of liberty advances, the bulk of mankind are as liable to errors as particular in former times. Through the influence of evil men, a jealousy is created against great and good men, who are held up as enemies to the common people — an error of the most dangerous kind; and instead of advancing in the science of Government, we seem to be falling back. At any rate nothing is seen that indicates an approach of a millenium; and it is feared that our future history will be as bloody as that of former times.

16 Monday. Fair morn, wind N. Afternoon generally cloudy and some snow fell.

17 Tuesday. Cloudy morn, wind NW.; sun seen at noon. Most of the day cloudy.

Democratic papers

The democratic papers are trying their sophistry to keep the people blind to the "refusal" of President Polk to submit the Oregon dispute to arbitration; but the discerning part of the people see in this conduct a base submission to the dictates of his western war-hawks. Mr Polk and his Cabinet may act in unison, but what is their brief authority when put in opposition to the interests of the people who have in their hands full power over the ballot boxes? Remember this master John! Four years at the White-house is a short period, and Bladensburg's field is near the capital.

War! — what are we to gain by it? Our country now possesses a flourishing commerce and is enjoying in peace all that is possible in

Feby 17 free constitutions and equal laws; our farmers obtain a good price for their products, the laborer, without property, high wages, and all sit peaceably under their vines and fig trees, yet a party are uneasy, and ready for fight: They would overthrow all old constitutions and introduce new ones from the land of Utopia. Who are these men, and are they of sane minds? Clearly not. They are that sort of men who find no charms in regular society, or nothing inviting in the ~~in the~~ works of Nature: In short they have never learned to repose under the salutary rules of civilized society. If we but listen to them, we hear loud vociferations about Honor — National Honor; as if there could be any honor in fighting for the settlement of indefinite boundaries in the wild woods, which legitimately belong to the aborigines who inhabit them. When either nation shall show a clean & fair title to the Country from the natives, there will be some foundation for a claim. The right claimed from a ship's sailing along a coast for the first time, and even landing and trading with the natives, seems too preposterous to deserve a serious refutation.

If a settlement be formed on a new sea coast, by the consent of the natives inhabiting it, and trade be opened advantageous to both, a right seems to have been obtained, and when the settlement is made under the patronage of a government with a promise of protection, then that government is bound to fulfil its promise. Individuals, or companies, may also obtain possessory titles in the same manner; but they have no claim on the government whence they emigrated, unless that government promises protection. The

Feb'y 17

title they have thus obtained: must be defended by themselves, and they, in fact, became a people distinct from the country whence they emigrated, and have no claims to its protection.

In this view of the subject, neither we nor Great Britain have acquired a real right to any part of the N.W. coast of America; and by what right any degree of latitude, in the interior of the Country, is made a boundary, we have yet to learn.

But it is said we have acquired a right to the Oregon Country, by settlements made on its principal rivers. This right, however, belongs to the individuals who formed the settlement, but not to the country from which they emigrated.

These positions, I am aware, ~~will~~ will be considered unsound by those who hold that the rude natives of a country have no right to the soil they inhabit. To such I leave the task of showing the correctness of their positions.

In case a nation takes possession of an uninhabited Island of the Pacific ocean, not rightly claimed by any other nation, it becomes the property of the nation which settled it; but if the settlement is made by individual enterprise, the land becomes their own.

(His Holiness, the Pope of Rome, once claimed the whole of our globe as his right, but a satirical writer very appropriately calls on him to show his title deeds from Adam. In modern times the right of discovery has superceded the Popes claims, and which has the best foundation is a question.

In the present dispute between us and Great Britain, the rules of right adopted by Courts of equity and arbitrations, should apply, as in disputes between the boundary of contiguous farms; and the nation which refuses to submit its claims to a fair umpire is evidently in the wrong, and evinces a disposition hostile to the peace of the world, insufferable at the present time.

Feby *Wednesday.* Morn fair
18. and wind N E, and a fair day succeeded; yet I observe no diminution of the snow.

From the proceedings of our Gen. Court General Court, it appears that petitions are still flowing in, and among them many for grants of Rail-Roads through towns situated at a distance from the great arteries leading to the city of Boston. This zeal for the roads, I think, will soon abate, and the people become satisfied that other well made roads will answer all the purposes of inland transportation. The benefits accruing from *short roads* of this kind, have been overrated; and it is a fact that no town in the interior of the country, can afford to construct one through its limits, without aid from the capitalists of our large trading cities; and it is not to be supposed they will invest their money, on cross routes, or parallel ways. The route from Fitchburg to Athol, thence down Millers river & through Northfield to Brattleborough, lags, and it is doubted whether the road will be constructed. A route from *Grants* to Greenfield is out of question, and a continuation to *Troy*, but a visionary project, promising not even a probability. But 'tis not the strangest project in the world, that men in their zeal, should have entertained the thought of *tunnelling* Hoosac mountains. When our farmers shall turn their labor to the cultivation of their lands, they will find more profitable employments, and that rail-roads are not the most direct ways to competence and happiness. Mountains, hills & valleys, constitute fertile farms, and feed a hardy race, who,

"Urge their way, in sport,"
"Through wind, toil, in every clime."

And if nature denies them the facilities of rail roads, they cut down hills, fill up vallys & construct roads not much inferior. Mountain air renders them healthy & masculine exercise stout

stout ~~this~~ limbs, and after a due course of military discipline
Feb 17 men, make most efficient sol-
18 diers. Remarking upon the Highlanders of Scotland, Burns has the following lines:

"But bring a Scotsman *frae* his hill,
Clap in his cheek a Highland gill,
Say such is *George's* will,
An there's the foe,
He has no thought but how to kill
Twa at a blow.

The mountaineers of New England, though not remarkably addicted to the "Highland Gill", partake of the character of the Scotch

19 *Thursday* a fair morn, wind N. and cold air, succeeded by a fair day: Good sleighing.

In the New York Journal of Commerce, it is said the boundary of Oregon is to be fixed on the 49th degree of latitude and as a sort of compensation to us, our tariff is to be so modified as to admit British manufactures at a low rate of duty. If this is the fact the southern states are likely to effect their object of checking northern enterprise by admitting foreign articles at a very easy rate. Such manoeuvring policy is despicable; but may be considered as *honorable* by a nation which sees no injustice in grasping a neighbouring territory, because it is within its power, without regard to moral right. But if the northern states are to be thus deprived of their manufacturing enterprise, let our government look to the consequences. Under such a system a division of the Union would, indeed, be probable, not to say necessary.

20 *Friday*. Morn cloudy, wind N.E. with snow; an additional quantity of which fell last night. The storm continued through the day.

The Boston Post says Mr Sunderland (of whom we have heard something) is exhibiting *unparalleled experiments*, at the Tremont Temple in which he attempts to account for the vision of

Febr 20 of Swedenborg, the miracles of Papists and the Mormons, witchcraft, ghosts, and various mysteries, hitherto supposed to be supernatural.

Sunderlands lectures

If Mr Sunderland explains these phenomena by *mesmerism*, are they less mysterious than when attributed to the *devil* or some other *evil beings*, which have been conjured up by imaginary men? Why not then permit them to remain under their former supposed agents, not less mysterious than the hypothesis of *mesmerism*?

We seem to have reached an age in which all former systems of natural empirical philosophy are to be set aside, by *Lecturers* of occult pretensions.

Axioms of philosophy

To me the standard axioms of philosophy appear to be sound — viz: 1st Nothing has no property. 2d No substance, or nothing, can be produced from nothing by any created being. 3d Matter cannot naturally be annihilated. From these axioms the following rules have been deduced, which also appear sound.

Rules of.

1. We are to admit no more causes of natural things, than such as are both true & sufficient to explain their appearances. 2d Therefore to the same natural effects we must, as far as possible, assign the same causes. 3d Such qualities of bodies as are not capable of increase or decrease, and which are found to belong to all bodies within the reach of our experiments, are to be esteemed the universal qualities of all bodies whatsoever. 4th In experimental philosophy we are to look upon propositions collected by general induction from phenomena, as accurately or very nearly true, notwithstanding any contrary hypotheses that may be imagined, till such time as other phenomena occur, by which they either may be corrected, or may be shewn

34 to be liable to exceptions

Jany 20 These axioms and rules, are laid down by a standard writer and would if regarded fortify the mind against the fallacious schemes we so often hear from modern lecturers, who fancy the greatest effect in an audience who have never been regulated by a balance wheel.

I am aware that important discoveries may yet be made in natural philosophy, but we are not to look for them in itinerant lecturers. I recollect once to have attended one of these lecturers, who attempted to overthrow Newton's doctrines of optics, but I could never learn that he obtained any converts; and we often hear of new theories of the tides; but I believe the moon still continues her influence on the ocean by her attractive power.

Phrenology has delineated her bumps upon maps of the skull and given names to the brain under the respective sections; and now mesmerism is advancing new doctrines in psychology, which by a sort of ubiquity is to render the human mind capable of scanning the recondite laws of nature. Surely we are making great progress; and man is becoming a being aspiring to knowledge his condition will not admit him to possess.

"What would this man? now upwards will he soar,
And little less than angels, would be more" Pope.

21 Saturday. Morn fair — wind W. and the afternoon cloudy. The snow is now deep (say 2 feet)

Report of Adjutant General Oliver on the militia

Gen. Oliver's Report } The Boston Post gives us a synopsis of this Document, in which some of the errors of our militia system are pointed out, which evinces a knowledge of military science, rarely found among our militia officers. The

Feby The notices, the puerile
21. show and senseless parades of
our military corps. Their military visits
he thinks, are too expensive
of the and tend to throw discredit
militia upon the service, in the opin-
ion of a prudent and sober
minded community, and; he re-
marks upon the folly of em-
ploying so many men as mu-
Judicious sicians, by single companies,
remarks and also the want of good field &
of. staff officers, and attaches to the
prancing horses and splendid
caparisons, on muster days.
It gives me satisfaction to find
one officer, in the militia, who
is not charmed with the fool-
ish show of our parades, and
has the good sense to repudiate
them. From the synopsis I am
inclined to believe that General Oli-
ver has acquired some just
views of military discipline.
I regret that some friend in
the General Court, has not fur-
nished me with a printed copy
of the report, since it is known
that it treats of a subject on
which, ~~it is known~~, I have spent
so much time. But an octo-
genary must not complain if
he is forgotten by young men
whose minds are confined to the
ordinary pursuits of life.

22. Sunday Fair morn, wind NW.
and fine day.
Arrival of a British steamer The British Steam Ship, Cambria
arrived at Boston on the 18th in-
stant, after a passage from Liverpool
of 14½ days, bringing papers from
London & Liverpool of the 3 & 4th
instant. The English Parliament was
then in session, and the Queen's
speech says: "I regret that the
conflicting claims of Great Britain
and the United States in respect
of the territory on the N.W. coast
of America, although they have
Queen's speech been the subject of repeated
negotiation, still remain un-
settled". She adds: "You may be
assured that no efforts con-
sistent with national honor
shall be wanting on my part
to bring this question to an early
and peaceful termination."
The speech goes on to state that

36. increase of the naval & military
Feby establishments will be proposed.
22. The debates in parliament are
temperate, and indicate no desire
to go to war with us, on the
Oregon boundary, but hold out
Senti- an honorable course as essential.
ment In the House of Commons Mr
Hume said, "he hoped that the
right honorable baronet (Robert
Peel) would continue to main-
tain, the good understanding
Mr which appeared to prevail be-
Hume's tween France & England. "It was,
re- (said he) in the power of the
marks British Government, united with
that of France, to command the
peace of the world. Quarrels
might take place between dif-
ferent nations, but these two
great nations, united, would
prevent war".

Such a Union, it is hoped,
will take place, and banish
the scourge of warfare from the earth.

No ir- In the debates no irritating
rita- language, like that of our
tion western war hawks, is seen;
man- and no vulgar prejudices
ifested are vented against other na-
tions, because they differ
in their modes of government
from their own. Between
two governments, whose in-
terests are so much alike as
that of Great Britain & the
U. States, it appears next to
an impossibility that a
war should occur. Nor would
even symptoms of it exist, were our pre-
tended patriots honest men,
Our seeking the welfare of mankind.
patri- Vulgar prejudices against nations
ots so should find no place in the
called. hearts of honorable men; and
in general they are confined to those
of low intellects who wish to ele-
vate themselves above their natu-
ral level,—too often successful
in new states where stump
orators charm the multitude
by their vociferations & pretended
love of liberty. But these patri-
ots enjoy but a short political
life; the same shout that raised
them to place, throws them
back to their former standing,
and not unfrequently with
curses on their heads. Such is
the instability of men acting from
the impulse of the moment.

Feby 22 In respect to a war, if
Mr Polk is resolved to pro
duce one to gratify his demo
crats, let him look to the
consequences, and not
rush into it unprepared.

War of 1812 In the war of 1812, Mr Mad
ison, under the belief that
an undisciplined force of farmers
mechanics &c. were suffici
ent for any military en-
terprise, dashed headlessly
Rash & unwarily commenced on, and attempted the
conquest of Canada; but
the attempt soon taught
him the fallacy of his ex
periment, and that war
could not be successfully pro
secuted without regular
troops and money to sup
Consequences port them. Nor did he dream
that his capital would be
invaded and destroyed by
a few thousand British troops
and himself driven over the Poto-
mac to seek safety in his
native State; and finally
to close the contest without
effecting the object for which
it was *ostensibly* declared.

Mr Polk has the lessons of that
a lesson to Mr Polk war before him, and should
recollect that his democrats
are not the men on whom
great reliance can be placed
in a time of severe pressure,
but may become his inveterate
opposers when they experience
the deprivations of a protrac-
ted war. And finally may he
learn that peace, and not a
useless extension of territory, is
essential to our prosperity and
happiness.

23. *Monday*. Morn partially
cloudy, & wind S.W. but the
day generally fair

Congress debates In the debates of Congress on
the Oregon question, we find the
most zealous among the members
from the *western States*. In the
Senate a *Cass* from Michigan,
a *Hannegan* from Indiana and
an *Allen* from Ohio; are foremost
and

38

Feb. 23.

Western members.

insist on what they call the whole territory up, at least, to Lat. 54°.40, but on what grounds is only known to themselves. Are these men more wise, more discerning, or more honest, than the members from the old eastern States, who look cooly and dispassionately into the question? Who believes this to be the case? These western members seem to have formed their notions from the wildness of their woods & prairies, and the prowess of their militia from the feats of their hunters and trappers, whom they suppose are superior to disciplined armies in a field battle. Their knowledge of war, upon a large scale, is as crude as the people who elected them to their present seats. If perchance there are among these men of a different character, they are sure to meet the violent censure of the people, if they express sentiments on the question, more consistent with common sense.

But it is hoped that these furies will find themselves unable to deceive the more thinking people of the old States, and plunge us into an unnecessary war, which would be felt on the Atlantic sea board, and not in the interior states. These men may figure for a while, but the people will at length learn to appreciate them by their real worth, as morals & and intelligence are diffused among them.

24 Tuesday. A fair morn, with W. wind, and a clear day.

Gen. Olivers report, remarks on

Remarking upon the Report of Adjutant General Oliver on the militia, the Christian Register of the 21st instant, says: "We shall contribute, as we have ability, in the introduction of a public opinion, which in good season, will dispense with a military system

2 Ap. "Organization": in which it is presumed, that there should

24 be no military force in the State. This, I think, is Utopian. Does the Editor believe even the laws could be enforced without some such force? And since other nations maintain military forces, what assurance have we that our liberty and Constitutions might not be overthrown by an ambitious power which disregards right and justice, as that of Bonaparte in the time of the French revolution. When the great nations of the world, shall adopt and act, upon peace *principles*, we may talk of non-resistance, and of maintaining our independence by resting on the justice of nations. Weak as a *militia* force may be, it is necessary in time of peace to enforce the laws. The scheme of non resistance is predicated on a false notion of the perfectibility of man, to which he has not, and we fear, will not arrive. In an *offensive* *war* we care not to what extent the *Quaker* system is carried, but in a *defensive* one, our safety depends on a military force. & the only question is, in what this force shall consist. The plan of converting *all* able bodied men to soldiers, is as foolish as it is useless, but a *portion* must be inured to arms or government is a farce.

Editor of Christian Register

To what defence the editor would have recourse in a defensive war I am at a loss. Perhaps to a *creation* of men *armed* *cap* *a* *pie*, like the fabulous scheme of Deucalion & Pyrrha to people the world anew! Sincerely I regret to see in the respectable editor of the Register. The able & successful manner in which he assails the dogmas of Calvinism which have long enveloped Christianity

Feby 24 in darkness, or presented it in features repulsive to reflecting minds, is cordially acknowledged. But while he finds his victories so easy over a weak foe; let him not suppose he will be equally successful in cases which present doubtful results

25 *Wednesday.* Morn partially fair wind NW; the day continued much the same

Weather cold The weather is now uniformly cold, and the sun makes little impression. May not this coldness be explained by the fact, that the snow, being a non conductor of heat, cuts off a flow of the internal heat of the earth to the superincumbent atmosphere?

Deep snow effects of. That the heat of the earth is greater than the winter Atmosphere is proved by the fluid state of the water in our wells. If there were no internal heat in the earth, would not the water become a mass of ice & so continue forever?

Internal heat of the Earth The proofs of this internal heat if not conclusive, are very strong and not to be shaken by a few experiments supposed to militate against them.

opinion of a French writer on. A French writer on Volcanoes says "The hypothesis of *central heat*, and by consequence that which imputes the origin of volcanic matters to a fiery mass in the interior of the globe, may be placed in the rank of truths most firmly established. In proportion as observations multiply, this hypothesis is confirmed, and the small number of phenomena yet involved in some obscurity, will be explained more easily by them than ~~those~~ which have been brought to light before; and the systematic minds which still resist the evidence, will soon find themselves compelled to abandon their opinions, which have already fallen into the most profound discredit." - *Considerations on Volcanoes &c.* par *M. J. Girardin.* quoted in Hitchcock's Report of the Geology of Mass. - page 517.

Nov 25 It is now held by our most distinguished Geologists that the central part of the Earth is a molten incandescent mass, and that the volcanoes form the safety valves of the vast furnace.

Those who have not looked at the phenomena of nature with an extended eye, may think this hypothesis too strange for belief; and is not the existence of the solar system & the Universe also too strange to admit of belief? Those who have examined Geological phenomena perceive a close connection between a central fire and the appearances of rocks on and near the earth's surface, some of which clearly indicate an igneous origin. The existence of volcanoes, greenstone dykes, the upheaving of islands from the bottom of the ocean, and of earthquakes, are believed to afford strong evidence of the hypothesis of a central fire: and I must confess no strong reasons appear against the opinion adopted by geologists of the present day.

26 Thursday. Fair morn, wind W, and day the same, and cold.

"A new and accurate Method of finding a Ship's Position at Sea, by Thomas H. Sumner" (2d Edition) is noticed in the Boston newspapers.

Sumner's improvements in navigation

When the Latitude, Longitude, and apparent time at the ship, are ascertained, one altitude of the sun with the Greenwich time, it is said, determines 1st. The true bearing of the land; 2d. The errors of Longitude by chronometer, consequent to any error of Latitude; and 3d. The sun's true azimuth. When two altitudes are observed, and the elapsed time noted, the true Latitude is projected; and if the times be used by chronometer, the true Longitude is also projected at the same operation. The work is said to be commended by various professors, naval officers & shipmasters, as a remarkable improvement in navigation. But I am not certain that it contains any thing new, not referable to the Nautical astronomy of older books. — See the

Remarks on

Feby 26

machines of improvements of this kind, and many others we see of scientific discoveries given by news paper Editors, are often discoveries of very little consideration.

Mr Sumner may have presented some simplification in the calculations, but I doubt whether he has advanced any new principles in the science of navigation. In general ship masters follow prescribed rules without comprehending their rationale.

Anecdote of a Sea Capt.

I once met with a Sea Capt. at Saratoga Springs who could not believe that the altitude of a heavenly body might be taken by a sextant & artificial horizon, without allowing for dip. But one may be a good master of a Ship without the mathematical & astronomical knowledge of a Bowditch.

Difficulties of navigation

Yet to navigate a Ship furnished with all the requisite instruments, - to ascertain her position at any time on a wide ocean, and the bearing & distance of the destined port, is no mean attainment even in fair weather, and requires men of skill as well as genius. Since the invention of chronometers, many of which run with surprising accuracy, the art has become less difficult, but unfortunately they are liable to errors. Another difficulty is cloudy & stormy weather which shuts out a view of the heavenly bodies from observation, when dead reckoning must be resorted to, which is liable to great errors from a variety of causes.

Errors of the magnetic needle

That astonishing guide, the magnetic needle, is also liable to error. Ever since I have used it on land and observed how easily it is turned out of its direction, I have ~~[illegible]~~ thought it probable that it must be affected by the local attraction of the iron of a ship on board of which it is used; and from the latest treatises on navigation I find this attraction to be an admitted fact causing considerable errors:

and

Jan And in a ship carrying 40
26 iron guns and shot of the
same metal, or loaded with
Still cargoes of iron; that this magnetic
a good guide can be relied on at all,
guide seems to me extraordinary.
But fortunately this guide
still continues its faithful-
ness to such a degree, as to ren-
der it of the greatest import-
and And under its guidance ships
traverse the widest oceans
with as much certainty as our
railroad cars perform their
land passages. In short the
art of navigation combined with
the construction of ships and
their appendages, appear at first view to be
efforts beyond the powers of
the human mind; yet they show
to what extent man may go
by a due application of the
established laws of nature,
which hold an unerring course
under the energy of their Cre-
ator.

27 Friday Morn fair, wind
N.W. and very cold. P.M. the
same weather

During the winter thus far, we
have had no rains of conse-
Re quence. In former years the
marks month of January seldom past
on the off, without one, or more, severe
weather rains, which broke up our rivers
&c. and produced prodigious floods,
often sweeping dams, bridges &
every thing within their reach; but
our storms have altered their inten-
sity, direction, & frequency, which
must be attributed to clearing of the
country of its forests, although a
priori we cannot see the rationale.
When North America shall be gen-
erally cleared and cultivated
& Cli like Europe, climates very
mates different from the present, may
prevail, and people be found
adapted to them, of various man-
ners & customs; but it is hoped
that an enlightened civilization
will keep pace with their exten-
sion. But taking the eastern
Continent for a sample what
well grounded hopes have we
that America will ever contain
a superior race of men? Itali
notions of liberty may produce
an inferior one.

Feb'y 28 Saturday. Cloudy with some snow; wind N.W.; day cloudy but no snow after the morning fall. This closes the Month and the weather has been uniformly cold; the snow now disap-

March 1 Sunday. Fair morning, N E wind, and day fair & cold.

Lunatic Hospital

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, with the Treasurers Report and that of the Superintendent, Dr. Samuel Woodward.

Its importance

This is a pamphlet of 164 8vo. pages, containing many table & useful matter in relation to the insane, committed to the Hospital, and demonstrate the usefulness of the establishment. Many cases are noticed in which entire cures have been effected, and others ameliorated under the care of the Superintendent, who appears well qualified for his arduous task.

Moon's influence in diseases

We were however a little surprised to find him inclining to the old notion of the moon's influence on diseases, which we had supposed had been exploded by men of science.

Suggested

On page 78 we find a table shewing the state of the moon at the commencement of a paroxysm of excitement in 125 cases of Periodical Insanity, amounting in all to 875 paroxysms. Also the relation of the moon to 175 deaths which have occurred in the Hospital.

How far Dr. Woodward's intends to maintain this lunar influence does not fully appear. He says: "Though I have not been able to discover any direct influence of the moon in the production of insanity, or in the occurrence of the paroxysms in periodical cases, it cannot be denied that there is such a thing as a regular periodicity with regard to the functions of the animal economy, and to certain diseases affecting the system". He adds "The

Most menstrual period is a lunar period; almost all fevers
1. have weekly, or semi monthly tendencies to crisis. The most acute often terminate at the end of the first week, and the more protracted at the end of the second, third or fourth week. Epilepsy often occurs at nearly regular lunar periods, and many of the friends of patients say, that this disease and the excitements of insanity occur most frequently at the new and full moon. If these coincidences were observed only by the ignorant and superstitious, they might pass unnoticed as too intimately connected with preconceived notions and partial examination of occurrences to establish and sustain what tradition has handed down to us; but men of the greatest science and closest observation, such as Mead, Sydenham, Balfour, Orton, Allen, & Monson recognize such influence. It is at this time a subject of close philosophical investigation, which should be encouraged & examined rather than ridiculed and rejected." Dr Meads Book on the influence of the sun and moon we have examined many years ago, and came to the conclusion that it was an ingenious investigation of the laws of gravity, as they are connected with these heavenly bodies in the production of tides; but unfortunately it afforded no evidence of effects on diseases; and his hypothesis has generally been laid aside by scientific physicians since the Doctor's day. With the other authors cited we have n been acquainted.

That some claiming to be men of science at this day, still adhere to the exploded notion, is not strang but how far these claims render these men capable of judging on the subject admits of doubt.

At this time a sort of sickly diathesis seems to be diffused throughout our country, which leads to a belief in any thing having mystery for its basis — such as Phrenology, mesmerism &c — differing essentially from

46 the mathematical principles of
March natural philosophy which prevailed
1 in the fore part of the last century.
Speaking of the belief of the influence
of Comets on the earth. M. Arago
Fash a French astronomer, has the following
ionable apposite remarks, which I have here
notion here quoted: "If you will only listen
in those circles which are called
fashionable, to the long discourses
of which the approaching comet is the
Mr theme, you may decide whether
Ara- there is any reason to congrat-
go's ulate ourselves upon the pretend-
opin ed diffusion of knowledge, which
ion so many *perfectionists* are pleased
of – to consider as the distinguishing fea-
ture of our age. For myself, I have long
been cured of these illusions.
Under the brilliant but superfi-
cial gloss, with which the pure-
ly literary studies of our colleges
cover all classes of society, we
almost always find, to speak plain-
ly, a profound ignorance of
those beautiful phenomena, of
those grand laws of nature, —
are our best safeguard from
prejudice".

Re These remarks I think will
marks apply to our *moon* *philoso-
phers* of the present day; and
whether the old doctrines of
Astrology are now to be revived
will be seen in our "*progress of
improvement*."

That Dr Woodward should aid
in the revival of the exploded no-
Litera tion of the moons influence in
ry men diseases, is to be regretted, since
not we shall always find among
always our "*purely literary* *men*", those
philos who are ready to embrace occult
ophers. theories, instead of the mascu-
line views of solid philosophy,
which often become disgusting
to students of *pure* literature.

2. *Monday*. Morn partially fair –
wind N.E. & the day the same.
This is our annual meeting for
Town the choice of town officers, &c. –
meet an old practice while we were
ing. a British Province, and when
honest *industrious* men were
the great men, and duly respect-
ed.

Magnetism. In a late Lecture
at Philadelphia, Professor Silliman
said

March 2. said: The properties of the Compass arose from the magnetic influence of the poles; that magnetic influence was produced by currents of electricity passing over the earth, subjected to the Spiral influence of the sun's rays.— Is there proof sufficient to warrant this assertion The Professor's opinions and knowledge of the laws of nature command respect.

Silliman's [illegible] on magnetism of the earth

Of magnetism, galvanism and even electricity we have yet much to learn, and the philosopher will always find stimulants to further investigation of the unbounded field of nature. spread before him.

3. Tuesday. Fair morn - wind N.E; the day fair

Looking over a description of the American Electro magnetic Telegraph by Alfred Vail, a pamphlet of 24 pages. I find some difficulty in the letter references to the cuts. But the machine is truly ingenious, yet I think too complicated for extensive practical use. When the telegraph is in perfect order, and managed by skilful hands, intelligence may be communicated with astonishing rapidity: But on long lines, say of 100 miles, will it not often be deranged from a variety of accidents, which cannot be avoided, and become an uncertain conveyance?

Morse's Telegraph description of

The success of the telegraph appears very doubtful.

4 Wednesday. Morn fair - wind S.W. and fair day.

On the 27th instant a petition was presented in our State Senate signed by 35 citizens of the Commonwealth, for the withdrawal of our State from the existing Union, and the formation of a new one composed of such States as will join her; or that She may form an independent government of her own

Petition in our Senate

The petition sets forth the iniquitous, unconstitutional, & profligate

48 manner in which Texas has been
March annexed to the union by Congress;
4. and proposes that our Senators & Representatives in that body, imme-
Dis- diately return to their constituents,
disu- for the purpose of framing the pro-
nion posed independent government.

That a dissolution of the Union will ultimately take place is probable, but at this time the plan is premature; and we had better submit to some inroads on the constitution than to the evils of a dissolution.

True indeed, if the present
Re- scheme of admitting foreign
marks countries into the Union, be
on persisted in, we see not why Mexico may not be annexed when she shall consent and ask for such a union; in which case all the ties that have held the states together may be dissolved, by bringing in a people whose interests may be opposed to ours. The plea that Republican liberty may be enforced upon a people unprepared for it, is idle. If a dissolution of the Union takes place, it will not be a peaceable one, but attended with blood and carnage. and such a project involves many questions of a novel character, and without precedents.

Let us then cling to Union until Congress shall commit a total disregard to the constitution and natural rights of the people, when the course we adopted in our separation from Great Britain may be necessary.

5 Thursday. Morn broken clouds — wind NW. P.M generally fair.

Through the attention of Mr James P. Fogg of Rochester N.Y. I am favored with the perusal
of Transactions of the New York
New York State Agricultural Society &c. 1 vol
agricul- 8vo — pp 671, with many plates
tural and cuts. The work is published
Reports by the assembly in 1844, and
V 4, is the 3d of the series. It contains much matter of importance. The article on the Geological Survey of the state, by Professor James Hall, one of the Geologists, I found to be highly gratifying. The plates & cuts are elegant, embracing views and organic remains, or objects

...rch of Paleontology. From his report it appears that no fossil coal is to be found within the limits of the State, but iron ore in great abundance in the N E part. This article is a condensation of the Geological reports which have been, or are about to be published. The work contains, also, Reports of the County societies, occasional addresses, and articles on destructive insects, all of importance to the farmer and man of science.

5.

[illegible] work

Remarks on the State

N York contains a large portion of excellent land, especially the western section, and depen much on its ~~[illegible]~~ Agriculture. Its wheat crop is invaluable & finds a facile rou to market by its grand canal & railroads. The growth of its towns and cities has been astonishingly rapid as well as its population. But do its improvements in morals keep *pari passu* with its commercial spirit? Within the State are many valuable men,—men of science and literature, yet its present democratic attitude renders the question at least, doubtful.

The exertions now making in the State to improve agriculture, on scientific principles, are commendable, but how far they will remove vulgar prejudices from the common people is doubtful. These efforts are the work of Philosophers, but the people at large are averse from philosophical investigations, & still cling to their old prejudices, which taught them that wielding the *hoe*, *scythe*, *axe &c.* constitute all that is important, & will still, as hereto counteract improvement in agriculture, to the desired extent.

6 *Friday*. Morn fair. but many broken clouds and wind N E. P.M. cloudy.

Snow remains deep & sleighing good. At this time, last year, the ground was mostly clear from snow. How different the aspect now! Grim winter reigns with unabated sway and charming spring seems distant. No rains have occurred, as usual

Saturday. Fair morn. wind
March N.E. and air cold; Sun's Decli-
7th nation 5°18' South, per almanac,
at Greenwich mean noon. The
Congress day continued fair, but with
nothing very little dissolution of the snow.
impor- During the past week nothing very
tant important has been transacted in Congress. If determined to fight Great Britain they, it appears, mean to enter the contest wholly unprepared. If however this condition shall insure peace, long may it continue. At this age of the world a war between civilized nations is as disgraceful as a duel between two individuals — both evincing that, notwithstanding the improvements made in arts, science, and government, man remains far below that elevation to which he may ascend by a due cultivation of the faculties bestowed upon him by his Creator; and that he has made no greater progress in real knowledge, may be attributed to the counteracting influence of false systems which have been imposed upon him from his birth. True the mathematical science have been carried towards perfection; but in many other branches of knowledge his mind is still confined to small limits, and whether these will be enlarged by an improvements, to any great extent, is at least doubtful:

"Then say not, man's imperfect, heaven in fault;
Say rather man's as perfect as he ought;
His knowledge measured to his state & place,
His time a moment, and a point his space".

8. Sunday. Morn cloudy, wind S.W. with gentle fall of snow, but soon became fair. P.M. generally cloudy and cold

9 Monday. Morn fair, wind W. and a fine day succeeded.

A London paper of the 6th of December last, says. "In France the popular mind is constrained to be peaceful against its natural tendency, rather than kept so from

arch
9
nglan
&
imme

from its wisdom, morality, and its advantages. They are ready to plunge into a war to morrow with any people of Europe and a war with England in particular would, we fear, be a popular measure in any ruler who should see in it a means of rising to glory. If America should make an appeal to arms to decide the right to a large but barren territory, which neither party has as yet thought worth possessing, ~~[illegible]~~ it would be less from any hope of contending with us successfully than with the probability of offering France an opportunity, too tempting to be resisted, of attacking her European rival, and that the opportunity would be readily seized we have little doubt" —

On what this opinion is founded we cannot say, but the writer may see more than appears to us. Is it true that France like a rumbling volcano is ready to explode and destroy the neighboring nations, and throw the world into confusion? And are these the fruits of refined civilization? The supposition is hardly admissible. What advantage would France derive from the destruction of England, a nation whose arts and sciences are akin to her own, and the happiness of both is promoted by a lasting peace and a good agreement. If France is such a nation as is represented by the writer, she is a nuisance in the world. What is the strong temptation which America might present to France in case of a war between us and England? Is it the conquest of the British Provinces in America? Such a conquest being effected, and these provinces placed under the power of France so destitute of moral obligation would the United States be more secure than in the present condition of these provinces?

But the wild democracy of the United States renders them blind to their interests, and nothing short of the destruction of England will

March 9

satisfy its rapacity. If then this spirit for war is found in any powerful nation, what becomes of the flattering hopes & expectations of those who have predicted that universal peace was about to prevail, and the "nations learn war no more". For that happy time all good men wish; but wise men see little indications of this glorious era for many years to come; and our future history may be as bloody and ferocious as that which has past. In vain do we look for universal peace until ambition and injustice shall be laid aside, and men adopt the principles of justice and right. And how far the world has advanced towards this condition is a question of importance.

Vain hopes of universal peace

Future History.

By recurring to history we find that nations have been subjected to revolutions; they have had their rise and fall at various periods, and this probably will continue to be the case. When a nation has become corrupt, sometimes the result of incipient refinement, it soon loses its masculine virtues, declines, and ultimately ends its career of greatness.

Rise & fall of nations

If England & France in their high state of civilization are unable to maintain peace, what is the value of high attainments, and what hope have we, that any degree of improvement will banish war from the earth.

The writer we have quoted may have expressed his fears under misapprehensions, and we hope this is the fact. But if a hostile spirit, such as the writer describes actually exists in France, the tranquillity of Europe cannot long remain undisturbed, and we may soon see a reënactment of the horrid scenes that occurred under Napoleon Bonaparte.

March 10 Tuesday. Morning fair 53 wind N. and day very clear

Oregon debate

The Oregon debate continues in the Congress Senate, and the friends of peace favor a compromise; but a few war hawks, are sharpening their bills and claws, for a pounce on the "whole territory", up to 54-40 of latitude. Mr Hannegan of Indiana, whose claws are ready for the pounce, and probably apprehensive that the President inclines to settle the boundary on the latitude of 49, recently said in a speech— "The President stood committed to 54-40. If he had deserted that position, he was an infamous man, and his fate would be inevitable disgrace. While the eye would hang on the page of history, he would be held as a traitor; his damnation would be so deep that the hand of Resurrection would never reach him; there would be no mercy for him from God, and he dare not ask forgiveness from man." This language is precisely what I had anticipated, should ~~Mr~~ Polk dare to take a course dictated by justice and duty.

But does Mr. Polk possess the nerve for such a course? When duty required opposition to his democrats, we suppose he would vibrate between the two, but finally settle on the latter. He must not forget his dear friends who placed him in his chair, a war however ruinous to his country, he may deem less so to himself, than peace. Should the "deep damnation" of his party turn upon him, he might sink to his former obscurity. What a fall! But Mr Polk may learn that a President who follows the path of duty, and holds the welfare of his country paramount to the designs of wild democracy, is not their man. An Allen or a Hannegan might be found more pliable than either to occupy his place. But these war hawks, we trust, will ere long be unfledged of their lordly plumage and seen in their carnivorous [illegible] [illegible].

Mr. Polk's present position is pitiable.

54 pitiable: Duty and the welfare of
March his country on the one hand, and
10 subserviency to democracy on the other.
If pledged to the latter his course
Mr is fixed, but if his duty prepond
Polk's erates his fate may, indeed, be
posi "inevitable disgrace" in the views of
tion his party, and be deemed a traitor.
In the present state of public
opinion a President, of an honest
and independent mind, will
criti find himself misplaced in the
cal White House. Whether Mr. Polk
will desert his party & become
a "Traitor" is yet to be seen.
His present disposition, it is be
lieved, is favorable to a compro
mise with England, and this
being perceived, irritates his war
hawks, and they are ready to
pounce upon him, should his
duty to his country direct his de
cision. "When infamous men
bear sway, the post of Honor
is a private station", says one
well acquainted with the corrup
tions of public opinion.
The prospects of a war with En
gland we have thought, were dis
sipating, but if the President and
his party insist on the Lat. of
54.40, war will probably oc
cur, and chiefly be chargeable to
a party that has no regard to
the welfare of the country. A
war might cure their "enthusi
asm", but would be ruinous
to the people.
But, say our wild liberty
politicians, we should con
quer the British provinces in
north America. Aye! and
what advantage would that
be to us? Not a cent! But
during the operations against
the provinces, what would be
fate of our Sea port cities & towns?
We should not forget that during
Recol the last war, the British conquered
lection that part of Maine lying east
of the of the Penobscot, and held it with
war but a small force; and Bla
of 1812 densburg can tell us a sad sto
ry of the successful march of a few thousand
British troops to the City of Washing
ton. Were these the faults of our
citizen soldiers, or of those who plunged
us into war without preparation?

March 10 } and without a justifiable object. An examination of the history of the United States and of the *peculiar* condition of Europe at the time will explain the *cause* of the war.

11, *Wednesday*. The moon fair and wind S. West. and day fair & clear.

Lease of my lands } This day leased my meadow lands to John M. Forbes, for one year from the 1st of April next, he and his family to reside in my son's house, and board me for the time at 2 dollars per week, the amount to be taken from his note of 150 dollars given to my son Arthur, who is to pay all taxes assessed upon the lands. These changes of condition to which I have been subjected

Reflections } of late years, are rather annoying to my habits of repose in my old venerable age. I look around for old companions, but they are gone; and a new generation has arisen who knew not *Joseph*, and old things are becoming obsolete. I hope for an improved race of men, but the prospects are not flattering. There may be a retrogradation; and, a careful observer may perceive some indications of it. Many at the present day attempt to rise to fame without plodding through the old paths of science and literature: they are seated in *rail road cars* under a velocity of 20, 30 or more miles per hour; and yet, as if this were slow speed, they now think of *sending* ~~th~~ *thoughts* over the distance of hundreds of miles by an electro magnetic shock. Truly we are on rapid flights: but ~~they~~ men will at length find they have limbs for *walking* and that they are destitute of *wings*.

In these remarks it is not my design to retard the progress of useful discoveries & improvements, but to caution men against wild speculations, and not to attempt things that are beyond their capacity, but to keep within their proper sphere.

The Poet has happily expressed the caution in the following lines. Thus

March 11.

"What if the foot, ordained the dust to tread,
Or hand to toil, aspired to be the head?
What if the head, the eye or ear repined
To serve mere engines to the ruling mind?
Just as absurd to mourn the tasks or pains
The great directing mind of all ordains."

12. Thursday. Morn fair - wind SW. many clouds during the day.

Perusal of Gen. Oliver's Report on the militia

I have at length obtained Adjutant Gen. Oliver's report on the militia of Massachusetts, and given it a careful perusal. He evinces considerable knowledge of military science, by which he is able to point out the puerilities practised at our militia reviews. The more he studies the subject, the more he will perceive of the imperfection of our militia system. The grand difficulty is the want of skillful officers; and this cannot be remedied until there is more inducement to study the art and science of war. A militia system, I think, might be adopted which would be respectable; but since we rely on Congress for a plan for the States, we have little hopes of seeing one embracing the proper principles; for very few in that body are judges of military operations, or the essential elements of war. The democratic spirit which now reigns, is totally averse to the restraints necessary to form soldiers. To subject men to subordination and implicit obedience to orders is contrary to their notions of equality and republican liberty. General Oliver's views in general strike me as judicious, and if read by militia officers, may cure them of some of their foolish ceremonies at reviews.

Want of good officers

No part of the report has been read with more satisfaction than that which notices the extravagant expenses of some of the port companies at their training days. "I recollect at this moment, (says the General) a late newspaper announcement of a parade of one or more corps, in which it was set forth that the members would breakfast at one public house, dine at another, and sup at a third, and that the day would be

March Spent in cheerful feasting
12. on fat things". To this might
have been added, a Brass band
will attend the parade, at the
expense of the corps". He remarks
"a fine band, a showy uniform,
and an agreeable entertain-
ment, ought never to be allowed
to usurp the place of thorough
practical drill, and of the right
devotion to the right objects of a
military association". Expensive
dress, expensive parades, costly
festivities and neglect of drill,
are ruinous to a soldiery, and
have proved a profuse source
of mischief to many of our best
corps". This hint will apply
peculiarly, to the fashionable com-
panies of our chief City, who mis-
take show and music for dis-
cipline. When these men shall
refresh themselves from the cold
junk of their haversacks, quench
their thirst from the running brook
and encamp at night in bough
shelters, constructed in the woods
on the spur of the occasion, they
will exhibit something of the
duties of the real soldier.
The corps in the interior of the
state are less extravagant; but
they too often attempt to ape
the show of these fashionables.
If General Oliver can remove
the prevailing extravagance, and in-
troduce the soldiers habits. he
will improve the militia. But
we think his task is a difficult one
so long as the present false no-
tions prevail respecting military
discipline. See my previous remarks
in this Report, page 34 & 38.

13. Friday. Morn cloudy - wind SW.
but sun out before noon; ~~the~~
day generally cloudy; some fog ~~[illegible]~~
Our General Court still in session
and full of small business.
The snow is still pretty deep, and
not a patch of earth is noticed on
the slope of hills facing the afternoon
sun. This quantity of snow
is uncommon [illegible] so late in
the season

14 Saturday. Morn cloudy and
foggy, wind NW., with a moder-
ate fall of rain; the continued
cloudy with occasional fog. Ri-
[illegible] & ice broken up.

58 Our Rail-Road from North
March ampton to Greenfield. During the
14 winter a few workmen have been
employed on the route east of
our our village, but little progress
rail has been made. In this part,
Road the location appears most singu-
lar, crossing many deep ravines
which might have been avoided
Slow by a route crossing our home-
pro lots near the foot of the eastern
gress hills; and why the location
of. is chosen across these ravines is
Un not easily explained. There seems
exp to be an influence somewhere,
loca which, to say the least, partakes of
tion the character of obstinacy, and
of. not friendly to our village ~~[illegible]~~
as the people ~~[illegible]~~ of Wapping, both
are disappointed in their
expectations. Perhaps however
the managers of the road may
Re be able to show satisfactory rea-
marks sons for this location; but at
present we see none.

The spirit for rail roads still con-
tinues in all parts of the country,
and a cross road is now pro-
posed from Grouts on Millers
river through Montague, Sunder-
land and across the Connecticut
to the village of Bloody Brook;
and the idea is still held up
Troy of constructing another up Deer
route field river and over Hoosac Moun-
tain to Troy—about as proba-
ble a project as that of constructing
a road to the moon. The people
seem to have forgotten that at least
20 thousand dollars per mile is
a sum beyond their capacity;
and that the farmer is to live
by industrious labor on his
farm. A rail road can not
be supported unless it follows
the great avenues of trade, and
leads to some great mart; and
I will venture to predict, that
very few cross rail roads will be
constructed and maintained.
Whether the Fitchburg road
will be extended across the hills, &
down Millers river to Grouts.
& thence through Northfield to
Brattleborough, admits of doubt;
the outlet from Boston to
Lake Champlain being a more
northerly route.
Their attempts to multiply
rail roads will at length show
us our folly.

15. Sunday. Morn fair, wind S.W.
P.M. generally cloudy— Snow
wastes slowly. Clear at night.

March 15 A drove of about 60 horses past southerly through our Street in the forenoon, supposed for the Hartford market. Our orthodox people consider this as an infringement of the Sunday laws; but those of more enlightened views, see no such infringement when a Sunday occurs during the march of such a drove to market. Religion presents no obstructions to business relating to the welfare of a community; and the market for horses and cattle is important to the farmer, as well as unobstructed roads for their transit. Sunday laws should protect all in their religious modes of worship, provided they are not immoral; and here they should stop. The institution of Sunday, as a day of rest and reflection, is useful among civilized people, but the laws should not interfere with necessary business; and of the sacredness of the day, men should be at liberty to judge for themselves. But it is said the day was regarded by the Jews as a divine institution; and so were many of their rites & ceremonies which are now entirely laid aside. When the day is established by law, it becomes a political institution, & I think a useful one, under due regulations.

A drove of horses

Sunday laws

16 Monday. Cloudy morn. — wind N.E. followed by a cloudy day; & N.W. wind P.M. — Slow dissolution of the snow from want of the sun's rays.

17 Tuesday. — Morn partially fair; wind N.W; the day generally fair. Patches of ground appear on the slope of hills, and on the south side of buildings. The slow dissolution of snow is a favorable circumstance: were that snow to dissolve suddenly by warm showers, or in heavy rains, terrible floods would occur, and great destruction of dams, mills, bridges &c be the consequence. The strongest works of art are scarcely sufficient to stand against a rapid Ice flood. Even massy rocks adhering to the ice are sometimes carried down rivers & deposited on land which is flowed. In this case the weight of the rock is diminished by the weight of an equal bulk of the water.

State of the season

During

60 During the winter, I have generally
March kept in my room, furnished with an
17 open iron stove, brought in my fuel,
kindled my fire in the morning, &
My have suffered little from cold air.
em- The greatest inconvenience met with,
ploy has been the long nights, in which
ment. sleep was interrupted, and I looked
impatiently for the morning twilight.
But like old Crothar, in Ossian,
"my arm is feeble, my steps is
unequal and I hear the calls of years".

18 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind N.
and a few days following, N. & E.
Mr Farlow and his family,
a a wife & two small boys, came
New to reside at our house, to carry
fami on our agricultural affairs for
ly the ensuing year. I hope the con-
with nexion will be harmonious and
us. agreeable to the parties: Nothing shall
be wanting on my part to render
it so. Friendly feelings & good in-
tentions seldom fail of harmoni-
ous intercourse.

19. Thursday. Fair morn, wind
N.E. a fine clear day.

Mr Ashmun sends me the
Speech of Mr Charles Hudson
Mr of Mass. delivered in Congress
Hud Feby 24 last, on the Wheat trade.
son's The speech evinces much re-
speech search into the subject, and
endeavours to show that a repeal
of the Corn laws of England, will
on the be of no advantage to us, as the
wheat Countries bordering on the Baltic
trade Mediterranean will furnish
wheat to England at a lower
rate than we can, from the
low price of labor in those coun-
tries. During the years 1841. '42
and '43, he states, that 18.383.465
bushels of wheat were imported
Facts from Prussia, and 7.949.070 from
stated Germany to Great Britain; and
during the same years, from her
N. American provinces 6.853.548,
and only 3.053.278 from the
U.States. I was not aware
of this extensive production
of wheat in Europe.
Our principal trade with England
in the article of wheat, Mr Hud
son says, has been through Cana
da: For the last 7 years we have
sent into Canada 12.586.892 bushels
while by our direct trade, only 7.764.588.
The speech is worthy of the attention
of the American statesman.

March 19.

The Contrast

When we compare the good sense displayed in the speech of Mr Hudson, with the wild ravings and howlings heard in the senate, from an Allen & a Hannegan, what a contrast we perceive! The latter appear exactly fitted to raise the passions of boys, who are as totally uninformed on the principles of government, as they are of the philosophy of a Newton. These disturbers of the peace of the country, may ride on a whirlwind, but they are sure to sink in a calm. Their efforts to involve us in a war with Great Britain will probably prove abortive, and President Polk will not escape their vituperation, if he consents to an amicable settlement of the Oregon boundary. The object of these western vociferants is war with Great Britain, and the boundary a convenient pretence: their disguise is dropping off.

Objects of demag.

20 Friday. Fair morn, - wind N.W. - and a fine clear day

New Hampshire election

By the returns of the election of state officers in N. Hampshire, it appears that the people are about to rid themselves of the misrule of democracy, and to assume a respectable standing in the New-England family. In a state embracing so many respectable men as that of N Hampshire, this misrule ought not to have occurred. This return to rational republicanism will relieve her from the imputation that her people, in the interior, were not sufficiently informed for freemen, but were under the control of a few demagogues who "fattened on the spoils". It is now hoped she will correct her illegal laws in relation to the election of her members of Congress, as well as others depriving the people of their rights. When public opinion runs wild, the people, if well informed, will correct the procedure at the ballot boxes. Let Maine clear off her woods and cultivate her soil, and she will also, become a member of the New-England family. Were the demo-cratic leaders to give up their delusions of false [illegible], the people would be happy.

62 *Saturday*. Morn fair; wind NW.
March 21 } many thin clouds, but mostly
sun.

The sun's apparent place is now
Sun's place } in *Aries* and it commences
North declination and Northern
amplitude. Many of our Almanacs
give the Greenwich time, which
N Declination } requires some variation for our
meridian, about *h*.4. *m*.50 West,
according to the best observations.

Two Comets are said to have
been seen at our Cambridge
Comets in sight } Observatory, and their elements
determined by Mr Bond. Some
of these bodies probably pass by
us unseen, and what are
their uses in the economy of nature,
we know not, but we
suppose their revolution in their
orbits are regular, though some
of our astronomers of late, who
hold to an *universal ether*, say
they are thereby retarded in their orbits.
One of the most unaccountable
Their trains } phenomena attending these bodies
is the enormous trains of millions
of miles; and perhaps
we shall never be able to explain
them.

If these trains consist of gravitating
matter, why are they
not drawn to the planets by
attraction, when they approach
them? And this may be the
case, though not perceived by us.
Periods } The periodic revolutions of very
few comets are determined, and
their number is unknown.

Our solar system to which we
suppose the comets belong, is of a
small extent compared with that
of the universe. Whence, we ask,
have come all the beautiful
regulations we observe? "Here science
leaves us, but only to conclude
from other grounds, that
there is a *First Cause* to which
all others are secondary & ministrative
to a primitive almighty will,
of which these laws are merely the
mandates. That great Being, who
shall say where is his dwelling place, or what
his history! Man pauses breathless at the
contemplation of a subject so much above
his finite faculties, and only can wonder
and adore". *Vestiges of Natural History*
page 10.

March 21 During the past week the war whoop of the western Senators in Congress, has been less loud, than for some time preceding. They probably find that the people in the eastern States are not to be roused by their savage cry, nor disposed to seize the tomahawk & scalping knife and wield them against fellow men, to gratify the cannibal appetites of these western blood hounds, who would fight without a cause. By a prudent course, the wiser part of the Senate will allay the rash spirit, and preserve the peace of our country. The only difficulty is for Mr Polk to pacify the rapacity of his dear friends, who already appear willing to sink him to deep damnation where the hand of resurrection will not find him!! Perhaps Mr Polk has not lost all sense of duty to his country, and may at length learn into what hands he has fallen. If while he was candidate for his present place he pledged himself to the war measures of his party, he should recollect that such a pledge is not paramount to his duty as President of the United States. His position is critical: the eyes of his party are upon him, and the least relaxation of the war spirit would increase the howl of his western packs.

Congress

22 Sunday. Fair morn, wind N. and a fine clear day. Various families of birds are now seen. Where was the place of their hibernation? This is a curious subject of inquiry. At the approach of winter most of the winged animals migrate to the south, probably so far as to keep nearly the summer temperature, where they can find food. Is not this emigration confined to the insectivorous birds?

The Irish laborers on the Railroad held a meeting this day in our town house where the Catholic services were performed by one of the clergymen of that order, I believe for the first time. There in the sun

Catholic worship.

64 United States where there is no
March established religion, all sects will be
22 equal; and since men in general
take up their religion from accidental
Re circumstances, rather than from investi-
marks gation, perhaps, in forming our opin-
on ions of them, their moral effects
on community, is the best criterion. The Catholic system however, appears not well fitted to a republic, and moreover its history is handed down to us in repulsive colors; but among a well informed people, it is not likely to be adopted to any great extent: yet are found opinions among us equally absurd, and ~~[illegible]~~ inconsistent with the attributes of a benevolent Creator.

When the calm philosopher takes a view of the various schemes of religion which have prevailed in the ancient, and indeed, in the modern world, he regrets the imbecility of the human mind, and the misusal of the faculties, when unaided by the light of pure science. In the wranglings about forms, rites & supposed duties of religion, he finds that the shadow is often mistaken for the substance, and that bigotry & fanaticism are fruitful sources of error and confusion. In a country where scientific knowledge is not diffused among the people, these perturbations are found to prevail to ~~the~~ great extent, & if aided by a bigoted clergy, become the worst of evils: Empty forms and ceremonies are substituted for moral practices, or religion becomes a puerility, divested of its essentials, which are defined by "St James" a servant of God (Chap 1. Verse 27th) "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world". Our Fanatics seem to have lost sight of this definition of pure religion, and to have attempted to introduce in its place, a jargon of faith & mystery as unmeaning as that of the Koran of Mahomet.

March 23 **Monday** - Fair morn, with wind at N E; the day fair, but many clouds. S W wind almost

Great Battle in India — By the arrival of the steam ship Hibernia at Boston, on the 19th instant, we have London & Liverpool intelligence to the 4th instant, the day of sailing. Great **Battle** has been fought in India between the British forces and the **Sikh** army which had invaded the British territory, in which about 30.000 men were killed & wounded including both sides, and the Sikhs defeated; loss of the British and native troops, 3300. The Sikh army, said to have been 80.000 men, with 150 pieces of cannon, & the British and native troops about 20.000 in the battle. At home the British Government is preparing for war; the army to be increased 10,000 men: Should a war with us occur, she will be prepared for it. Oh! **Horrida Bella** when wilt thou cease thy destruction!

Note — **Note**. For a brief sketch of the **Sikhs** See Morse's Geography **Vol. 2.** page 599.

The Sikhs are represented to be a warlike people, and able to bring 100.000 cavalry into the field, and, by their amalgamation with the military officers, they are supposed to be disciplined: This is a mistake as is evident from the result of the battles which has been detailed in the letters of the British Commander, **Sir Hugh Gough**, to the Governor General of India, dated December 19 & 22 1845. Twenty thousand British & native troops beat and dispersed 86.000 troops of their enemy - about 30.000 of which were cavalry - obviously unfit for battle with disciplined troops. Probably the **Sikh** discipline is similar to that of our militia, who rely on **show**, **numbers** and **native bravery**. In the battle alluded to, military judges have found that the **Sikh cavalry** were **too numerous** and their **artillery too heavy**.

24 **Tuesday**: Cloudy morn, wind S W. and day continued cloudy. Snow is now much wasted and is seen in patches only. The 2 battles mentioned on my yesterday's notice, took place at **Moodkee** & **Ferozeshah** in the **Punjab** territory, on the five branches of the Indus, east of the main river; The 1st on the 18th and the 2d on the 21st & 22 of December. In the 1st the Sikhs had no field works & the battle continued some time

68 time by Star light when the Sikhs were entrenched;
March in the second they occupied an
24 intrenched parallelogram, of about
one mile and half that space in
The width, with upwards of 100 guns, more
late than 40 of which were of battering
Battle calibre. The British force swept
the field and captured 73 pieces of
cannon, the enemy fleeing in va-
rious directions, in great confusion.
"Their camp, (says the British Commander)
Car "is the scene of the most awful
nage carnage, and they have abandoned
of large stores of grain, camp equip-
age and ammunition".

These two victories furnish striking
proofs of the imbecility of raw troops
when brought to oppose regular
veterans in a field of battle; and
it is a question whether any mi-
litia force we might bring into the
field would contend successfully in
battle against 20 or 30 thousand regulars,
furnished with all the necessaries of
war, x led by a skilful commander.

25. Wednesday. Cloudy morn with rain
which also fell last night; the wind
N.E. Rain continued moderate
Mr through the day.
Cal- In the United States Senate the
houn Oregon bill, as it came from the
Speech House, makes slow progress.

Mr Calhoun of S. Carolina has
recently delivered a powerful
speech against the war spir-
-it so rife in some of our West-
ern States; his popularity
at the South, gives him an
influence, in that section,
His favorable to peace. Nothing
enlight of the base, vulgar, prejudices of our old
ened enmity against Great Britain
views is perceived in the Speech; on the
contrary Mr Calhoun holds that
our welfare is connected with their
own, and that her downfall
would be the greatest misfor-
tune that could happen. Such
sentiments are noble, & evince
Re an enlarged mind, divested of
mark the childish prejudices of a portion
on of his brethren of the Senate who
sniff piracy and robbery in
the British Government, and
whose motto is Delenda est
Carthago! These Solomons
have lived their day, and their
buzz no longer disturbs the
repose of the peaceful community
end

March 25 } And their *counterfeit patriotism* is now known by honest discerning men, who suffer their peaceful firesides to the relentless ravages of war waged for a paltry object without a possibility of any advantage to our country. Let us then, repudiate the hostile spirit and continue the arts of peace, and within a few years we may become a great and happy nation, worthy of the dignity of rational beings.

No comf for war

26 *Thursday*. Cloudy morn & wind N. and moderate rain; the day continued about the same. The weather mild; the roads muddy.

Our General Court is still in session engaged in the affairs of the State; and it is to be regretted that such protracted sitting is found necessary. By a different mode of performing the business, I think it might be very much shortened. The practice of submitting *all petitions* to Committees, retards the business, and a majority of the members in the mean time, are unemployed, and I think I may say more than half of their time is lost to the public. In fact, under the present system, the Committees enact the laws, and a great portion of the members know little about them, unless it be those immediately concerned. A more correct mode of doing the business is that which would find more employment for the members, and less for the committees.

27. *Friday*. Morn cloudy with fog and W. wind, but soon clear.

Wild Geese there } Flocks of Geese, on their northerly course, were seen yesterday. These animals need no railways, nor telegraphs to aid them in their flight!

Brt "Who bid the Stork, *Columbus* like, explore
" Heavens not his own, & worlds unknown before?
" Who calls the council, states the certain day,
" Who forms the phalanx, & who points the way?"

We say *instinct*! But what is that but a name we cannot comprehend?

"Then say not man's imperfect, heaven in fault;
"Say rather Man's as perfect as he ought;
"His knowledge measur'd to his state & place
"His time a moment and a point his space

March 28 Saturday. Fair morn, wind S.W.: afternoon generally cloudy, the wind veering to the N.W.; the snow nearly gone.

29 Sunday. Morn partially cloudy, wind W. (variable); the day fair with many broken clouds.

30 Monday. Morn. fair, but many clouds, wind N.W. Still fair weather & moderate air.

In a message to Congress from President Polk of the 24th instant, he recommends preparation for war. This may be necessary to silence his party who begin to eye him with distrust.

Not new rage of the President

If a war with Great Britain be the object, what short of the raising of a standing army can be resorted to? An increase of our naval force would be of no avail unless we rendered it superior to that of the British. Enlistments for an army in a country like ours, where the wages of the soldiers are so far below those of the laborers, would be very slow, and our republicans would not readily submit to the subordination requisite in a regular army. Our cities might furnish a portion of recruits, but the interior of country very few. War then is not congenial to our condition, and a French conscription would not answer in a free republic, where all may have access to the ballot boxes. Give us peace, & we shall prosper,— war, and prosperity ends.

Proposing an increase of army & navy.

Remarks on

31. Tuesday. Fair morn, wind N.W. and day fine & rather cold.

This day closes our winter months and snow is now seen only in small patches out of the reach of the Sun's rays. The winter has been long, steady and not very severe. Our first snow came on the 30th of November & 1st of December last & covered the ground about 3 inches, and sleighing continued to about the middle of March, pretty good. The winter was remarkable from its absence of rains.

See Continuation of No. 20, in an unbound Book, beginning with April 1 - 1846: page 69.